

## CLAIMS:

1. Method for operating a vehicle, in which the access authorization is determined in a dialogue between a control device which is fixed in the vehicle and an authorization verification device (BNE) which is carried by the user, and the authorization verification device (BNE) is also used for enabling the vehicle drive unit to start, characterized in that the authorization verification device (BNE) is interrogated for the purpose of starting the vehicle drive unit independently of the process for establishing access authorization.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the interrogation takes place during the start of the operation of the vehicle drive unit.

3. Method according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the interrogation also takes place during and/or after the conclusion of the operation of the vehicle drive unit.

4. Method according to Claim 3, characterized in that, if after the start of the operation of

the vehicle drive unit, the interrogation is unsuccessful, a vehicle-fixed memory for an access authorization code is mechanically unlocked.

5. Method according to Claim 4, characterized in that the vehicle user is conspicuously informed of the implemented unlocking of the vehicle-fixed memory.

6. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the information is supplied visually and/or acoustically.

7. Method according to Claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the vehicle-fixed memory is ejected when the vehicle drive unit is switched off.

8. System for implementing the method according to one of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the memory is part of an activating unit for the vehicle drive unit.

9. System according to Claim 8, characterized in that the memory can be fitted into the activating unit.

10. System according to Claim 8 or 9,  
characterized in that the memory can be fitted into the  
authorization verification device.

11. System according to Claim 7,  
characterized in that the access verification authorization  
code can be extracted from the memory.

12. System according to one of Claims 8 to 11,  
characterized in that the memory and a mechanical key form a  
constructional unit which can be fitted into the activating  
unit for the vehicle drive unit.